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See Walter, Robert
Arg. 1 Natl. Student Assn.
Pers. Shaul, Dennis
CIA 2-04.2 student groups

12 NSA Ex-Presidents Defend CIA Subsidies

By ROBERT WALTERS
Star Staff Writer

Twelve former presidents of the U.S. National Student Association yesterday acknowledged that the organization received covert payments from the Central Intelligence Agency, but denied that the money affected their "complete independence and integrity."

W. Dennis Shaul, NSA president in 1962-63, read the statement at a press conference during which he acknowledged holding executive positions in four organizations identified earlier as major recipients of CIA funds.

"Without substantial funds, NSA's international program would have been immobilized. Yet each of us concluded that, without question, we would have chosen immobilization if the only funds available were conditioned on impairment of the independence of any of NSA's principles or programs," the statement said.

The former NSA executives added:

"And so the question became whether CIA funds entailed any

such conditions. We state categorically that they did not. Each of us, after being elected to office, was fully informed about the CIA relationship.

"Allegations that we were 'trapped' or 'duped' are arrant nonsense. While we constantly searched for alternative sources of funds, this relationship was the only realistic and responsible alternative available to us at that time."

The statement was signed by every NSA president from 1952 to 1964, with the exception of Richard Murphy, 1952-53 president and now an assistant postmaster general.

Among those signing were William T. Dentzer Jr., 1951-52 president and now head of the U.S. AID mission in Peru; Harry H. Lunn Jr., 1954-55 president and now executive

director of the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs in New York, a principal outlet for CIA funds, and Robert R. Kiley, president in 1953-59.

Shaul provided the current occupations of each former NSA president except Kiley, whose present position he said was not known. Kiley was identified earlier, however, as the head of the CIA's student and youth covert action division, which provided more than \$3 million to NSA over a 15-year period.

Shaul acknowledged receiving \$500 in 1962 from the Independence Fund of Boston, another CIA-controlled foundation through which funds were disbursed to student and youth groups.

Shaul said he considered the money "a personal grant" from Paul Hellmuth, a foundation

trustee, to enable him to pay his way through Harvard Law School because "I was in financial straits."

Shaul said that he now is international affairs vice president of the World Assembly of Youth, another organization supported principally by the CIA. From 1963 to 1965 he said he served as international vice president of the U.S. Youth Council, another CIA-supported group.

Now an Akron, Ohio, attorney, Shaul said he first became aware of CIA involvement in the student and youth field in 1962, when he was a leader of the Independent Research Service, which that year financed a U.S. delegation to the Communist-dominated Helsinki Youth Festival.

MORI/CDF